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**OFFICIAL****PATENT**  
**IBM Docket No. JP920000247US1**

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<u>Carlos Muñoz-Bustamante</u> Person mailing document:	<u></u> Signature

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office****Date:** January 23, 2004**In re Application** Hideyuki Usui  
**of:****Filed:** October 16, 2001**For:** Connection Enhancement Apparatus and Information  
Processing Apparatus**Serial Number:** 09/978,519**Conf. No.:****Art Unit:** 2835**Examiner:** Lisa Lea-Edmunds**AFTER FINAL AMENDMENT under 37 CFR § 1.116 (c)**Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2003 with period for response ending December 25, 2003, Applicants respectfully seek entry of the following amendment and remarks under 37 CFR § 1.116 (c). It is believed entry of this response would serve to facilitate prosecution by placing this case in condition for allowance.

SN: 09/978,519

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